



The Manger

January 2023

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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About Us

Our purpose as a faith community is connecting lives to Christ, serving God and neighbor, and living our faith. We exist to connect people to Jesus, his message of hope and his saving love.

Because we believe that the power of God's love transforms us, Immanuel seeks to be a place that welcomes, nourishes and empowers all people to grow in faith. Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from Your Pastor

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29

As we move into a New Year, with all its changes, all the resolutions, we remember all the things that have gone and the loved ones who have gone on to glory. We anticipate all the things to come and hopefully we can rejoice over all the things to celebrate. Ironically, the New Year has a great deal to do with change, and for most, change is not always easy; sometimes we hold on to the past because it gave us some sense of comfort or happiness. Other times, it might have been because it seemed simpler, more relaxed. But change comes whether we wish it or not. It becomes a matter of how we deal with it, plan for it and embrace it.

2023 will certainly see some changes for us here at Immanuel. We have gathered a team together to begin the search for a Youth/Family Minister. There are new council members and team members that have come on board to help lead this body of faith. They will have new ideas and a different perspective on some things. New ministries are being discussed! Visitors, new members are joining this community and with them, new backgrounds and ideas, ways of being church and points of view. These transitions remind us that part of God making all things new is our letting go of what we so tightly grip in order to embrace the new.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *continued...*

I wonder, just a thought here, instead of a traditional list of NY resolutions, things that WE want to accomplish during this year or things that we want to change about ourselves and our lives, how about if we create a list of what God might have in store for us. God's plans for our congregation? Not that we can ever know for certain, but I think by making this list we open ourselves up to the possibility that God has something incredible in store for us. The task then becomes how to LIVE into it? What is God calling us to become? Why has God placed such incredible opportunities right in front of us? So how will God grow us this year? Where is God seeking to transform our lives, hearts and minds. It may not always be comfortable, but then growth is part of life. How much we grow might just have to do with how open we are to what God has in store.

I pray this year finds your health (spiritual, physical, mental) improving. I pray that God's blessings abound in your life and the life of your family. I hope and pray that you will see this new idea that God is revealing and that you will praise God in the midst of change.

I've got one for you. Live into God's plan for us: Now THAT'S a resolution!!

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

* As you are making your list of goals for the year, consider volunteering at the **Grand Ledge Food Bank**, answering phones and taking orders. They need help on Tuesdays from 10-5, and are willing to break the time up, if you are only available a few hours each week. It is one beautiful way to get to know the underserved in our area, and work with some dedicated folks. If interested please call Mary at 388-6094. If there is no answer, please leave a message and she will get back with you.

* **Grand Ledge United** will be meeting in January to work out their schedule of events for the year. When that becomes available, we will post it in this section.

* We will continue to meet monthly with people from **GL schools, and churches**, looking at ways we can take part in creating a more safe and equitable community for everyone. We are called to do that and welcome anyone who would like to join us.

* If you have any **community news** you wish to share, please let us know, and we will follow up in getting the news out to others.

Wishing you all a healthy and hope-filled New Year!

Blanche, Pastor Chuck, Joni Henretty & Jan Martinich

COUNCIL CORNER

Well folks we have reached the end of another year. In just a couple of days we will welcome in a new year. We had some new and wonderful things that happened for us at the end of this year. We welcomed our new Choir Director, Maggie Polley, and she started things off working with our current musical brain trust to bring us a Christmas Eve service that knocked our stockings off. The music was incredible, and it is great to watch these musical minds continue our rich musical tradition. I would like to give a special thank you to Carmen and Maggie for their hard work and many hours of rehearsal which made things outstanding. I am looking forward to another great year of music.

We will also be welcoming a new council. We say goodbye to Britt and John as they leave council. They have been great to work with and have brought so much talent to help our church continue to move forward. We will be welcoming our new members Melissa Kingsley, Blanche Schaudt, and Cindy Smith. I am looking forward to working alongside them to continue our success.

I am looking forward to discussions about the kitchen remodel in the coming months. I am hopeful this will help us invest in new ministries that will be an asset to our church family and our community. We will have additional information in the coming months.

I really want to thank each and everyone of our church family new, old, and visitors for supporting me over the last two years. It has been a great journey for me and really helped me grow as a person and as a believer in God.

I wish everyone a safe and very
Happy New Year!!!!

Your Brother in Christ

Scott



NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

Our December noisy offering for the **Grand Ledge Food Bank** was \$110.00. Our January 8th noisy offering will be for **Blessings in a Backpack**. Blessings in a Backpack helps provide additional food for the weekend for some of the children in the Grand Ledge School District.

Special thanks to the volunteers that shopped for the families that Immanuel assisted through our **Baskets of Hope** ministry. This is one of Immanuel's community outreach ministries that helped provide Christmas Baskets with food and small gifts to some families in the community that needed some assistance this Christmas. We reached out to eight families this year. Thanks again!

The Serving Team is looking forward to the new year as we reach out to each other in our church family. And also reach out to the community and reach out globally!

\$5000 for GLEAP

Immanuel's own Barb Jetmore was instrumental in getting this check for \$5000.00 for **GLEAP** (Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program.) She heard about the need through Immanuel's Serving Team and went back to Meijer where she works. They had an event going on and she asked management at Meijer to consider a donation to GLEAP and they did. This will certainly help the cause this winter as GLEAP funds are used in so many ways. Thank you Barb!



COFFEE AND A TOUR

You are invited to a coffee hour following the worship service on Sunday, January 22nd.

"Coffee and a tour" will include coffee and goodies and an opportunity for everyone to see the kitchen and kitchen storage area which we hope to update and remodel.

The Kitchen Update/Remodel Team members will be present to communicate our vision and explain the need to update and remodel. The February Congregational Meeting agenda will be including an approval for the architectural design expenditure (\$5000.00) which is necessary for contractors to bid on the project! We anticipate that this remodel and update project is going to be a process in terms of details and steps involved and potentially the length of time to complete the project. Hope to see you at this special coffee hour!



AROUND IMMANUEL

Giving Envelopes for 2023

Due to Company staffing shortages and paper supply issues, our 2023 giving envelopes are delayed and are not in yet. In the meantime, please use the pew envelopes. In addition, if you have not yet signed up to get a set of envelopes, it's not too late. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex on the left hand bureau.



Altar Guild historically has been a group of women (we will gladly take men or couples) who have taken a month at a time, 2 times per year (for example every Sunday in January and June) to perform the following service:

- change the paraments according the church season
- replace the altar candles when they become short
- fill the baptismal font for baptisms and non-covid times for the sign of the cross
- fill common cups with wine and wafers. This can be done the day before
- clean up common cups post service
- alert Altar Guild organizer when supplies are low

If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild team, please contact Shari Burg at 517.896.7314. We are also looking for a new Altar Guild Coordinator.

MEN IN THE MORNING

Men In the Morning meets Wednesdays at 7 a.m. either at Cracker Barrel or online by Zoom. We are a solid support group for our walk with Christ. Our next meeting is January 11th.

Contact Pastor Rick (627-6202) or Fred Koos (517-881-0644) for more information and so we can get you on our communication list.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in becoming a member here at Immanuel or if you have recently transferred here, please plan on taking part in an "official" receiving of New Members, Sunday, January 15th, during worship. There is a brief part of worship where you will be invited forward to confess the faith and a coffee fellowship after worship. For more information see Pastor.





Immanuel has a church directory available online through an app or the website
Instantchurchdirectory.com.

With this platform we can instantly make additions and changes, so please let us know if you:

- ~ Have a new email address, mailing address or phone numbers.
- ~ Have a new mailing address
- ~ Have a new member of your family or changes to your household
- ~ Have a new picture you'd like to use for yourself or your family

You can call the church office, 517-627-6310, or email any of this information to office@immanuel-gl.org or directory@immanuel-gl.org.

Also, if you are new to our congregation, we have an app that can be easily used by members to access member contact and other information from your mobile device. You must have an email on file with us to access this app, but we are happy to add one for you if you give it to us. Here is how it works:

- Simply go to the App Store for your device
- Search for INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY and download the FREE app to begin.
- You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

KEN'S COAT CLOSET a.k.a THE 501 BUILDING

Did you know? The building directly to the North of our building is owned by Immanuel. This is known to the congregation as the 501 Building (its street address.) The congregation purchased it in July 2000. The open area between the church and the 501 building used to have a house on it which was used as a parsonage. After the purchase, the congregation organized many work parties to paint, renovate, roof, etc., to get the building usable. It was then used for several years as the congregational offices. The offices eventually moved, but then when Pastor Chuck was called he used the residence until he bought his own house. Then it sat vacant for a period of time with many discussions about how it could be used.

Enter Ken's Coat Closet. This ministry has been serving the Grand Ledge community for many years. Their mission is two fold:

1. Providing free clothing, personal care items, and other items to the G.L. community and
2. Provide a work based learning environment for special education students.

When Ken's Coat Closet was told by their current building in 2018 that they needed to move, we contacted them to see if the 501 Building would fulfill their needs, which it did. They moved in that summer. They do not pay us any rent but do cover the cost of their utilities. They provide a wonderful service to the community and our congregation is extremely pleased that the building is used for this purpose.

Serving on Sundays

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers on Sunday mornings. There are many ways to contribute, including space for ushers, inside and outside, lay readers, communion helpers, greeters and coffee fellowship.

You can volunteer occasionally or regularly.

We are looking for communion servers in January!

Worship is a huge part of our life together, so, please consider how you can be connected to the life of this body of faith.

You are welcome and appreciated!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jim Osburn | 12 Levi Boyers |
| 1 Ryan Dinsmore | 15 Elaine Mattson |
| 2 Christine Wood | 17 Tom Blake |
| 3 Edward Hill | 19 Drew Karkau |
| 4 Mark Wolf | 19 Fred Koos |
| 6 James Ostler | 19 Tyler Schneider |
| 9 Zachary Shilton | 20 Linn Smith |
| 11 Conner Blake | 23 Jo Long |
| 11 Lacy Boyers | 26 Orv Erickson |
| 11 Josh Hengeshbach | 27 Lola Mae Breilein |
| 11 Jim Nama | 28 Bruce Williams |
| 11 Britney Sullenberger | 29 Greg Ketola |
| 11 Teddy Williams | 30 David LaGrave |
| 11 Edward Williams | 31 Judy LaFay |

Happy Anniversary!

Brad & Mary Matzke ~ 1/7

Mike & Cheryl Pitchford ~ 1/7

David & Sheryl Kurtycz ~ 1/9

Dave & Barb Rinckey ~ 1/22

Joe & Patty Riley ~ 1/24

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion	2 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm	3	4 Choir 7:30p	5	6	7 AA Support Group 8am
8 Noisy Offering Blessings in a backpack Worship with Communion 10am	9 Serving Team Meeting 3:30	10	11 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study Choir 7:30p	12 Immanuel Quilters 9am	13	14 AA Support Group 8am
15 Worship with-Communion 10am New Member reception	16 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm Council mtg 6:30pm	17	18 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study Choir 7:30p	19 Immanuel Quilters 9am	20	21 AA Support Group 8am
22 Worship with Communion Coffee with a tour	23 Kitchen Re-model Team Meeting 3:30	24 7am Men in the	25 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study Choir 7:30p	26 Immanuel-Quilters 9am	27	28 AA Support Group 8am
29 Worship with Communion 10am	30	31	<p><i>If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact the Trisha at the Church Office 517.627.6310</i></p> <p><i>or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.</i></p>			